

RESOLUTION 12-4-12

Resolution Urging State Legislators To Vote In Favor Of Transportation Dollars For Transportation

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is a fundamental component of its ability to attract and retain business and produce jobs; and

WHEREAS, gas tax and vehicle registration fees comprise over 85% of the state's segregated transportation account. Revenues from these two user fees have been declining and are inadequate to meet the existing transportation needs in this state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's past practice of transferring money from the segregated transportation fund to the general fund has eroded the public's confidence that the "user fees" they pay through the state gasoline tax and vehicle registration fees will be used for their intended purpose; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's practice of replacing the dollars transferred from the state's segregated transportation fund with general obligation (GO) bonds put our state in the precarious position of bonding to fund ongoing operations; and

WHEREAS, the debt service for these bonds are being paid for out of the state's general fund which hinders its ability to fund other programs like Shared Revenue, Youth Aids, Community Aids and courts in the future; and

WHEREAS, Green County placed an advisory referendum on the November 2010 ballot asking "Should the Wisconsin Constitution be amended to prohibit any further transfers or lapses from the segregated transportation fund?"; and

WHEREAS, the people of Green County voted overwhelmingly in favor of this constitutional amendment – almost 70% "yes"; and

WHEREAS, Fifty-three other counties in Wisconsin also asked the same advisory referendum question and the support was similar across the state with an average "yes" vote of 70%; and

WHEREAS, first consideration of this constitutional amendment passed the Wisconsin State Legislature overwhelmingly last session, on a bipartisan basis; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-13 session of the Wisconsin State Legislature has the opportunity to pass second consideration of this constitutional amendment and in so doing will give the citizens of the entire state the opportunity to vote for amending the state constitution to ensure transportation revenues are spent for transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, providing constitutional protection for transportation user fees will align Wisconsin with our neighbors in Minnesota, Iowa and Michigan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Green County Board of Supervisors, in legal session assembled, that the board strongly urges our state representatives to vote in favor of second consideration of the joint resolution to protect the transportation fund, thereby giving voters across this state the opportunity to vote on a binding referendum to amend the constitution and ensure the transportation user fees they pay will be spent for transportation purposes.

Resolution 12-4-12
Page 2

SIGNED: GREEN COUNTY HIGHWAY COMMITTEE:

Ray Francois, Chair

Russ Torkelson

Harvey Mandel

Cal Wickline

Ron Wolter

FISCAL NOTE: No fiscal impact. MJD

LEGAL NOTE: Approved as to form. BDB

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS
COUNTY OF GREEN)

I, Michael J. Doyle, County Clerk, in and for said County, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution 12-4-12, adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 11, 2012.

Dated at Monroe, Wisconsin, this 11th day of December, 2012.

Michael J. Doyle,
Green County Clerk